

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01

AGR-10 /116 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS LONDON 15852

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ENRG, UK, EC

SUBJECT: PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE: SCHMIDT "WARNING"

TO WILSON ON SEPARATE REPRESENTATION

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1. OCTOBER 15 BRITISH PRESS GAVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S "PRIVATE WEEKEND LETTER" TO PRIME MINISTER WILSON REPORTEDLY WARNING HIM THAT FRG IS NOT PREPARED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING EC POLICIES OF INTEREST TO BRITAIN UNLESS HMG ABANDONS ITS GO-IT-ALONE APPROACH ON ENERGY. REFERRING TO THE UK'S DEMAND FOR SEPARATE REPRESENTATION AT THE CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE, SCHMIDT PURPORTEDLY WROTE THAT BONN'S WILLINENESS, FOR EXAMPLE, TO PAY FOR DEVELOPMENT AID FOR COUNTRIES NOT YET ASSOCIATED WITH THE EC AND OTHER EC SCHEMES LIKELY TO BENEFIT BRITAIN, SUCH AS FUNDS FOR REGIONAL AND SOCIAL POLICY, WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY BRITAIN'S STANCE ON ENERGY.

2. PRESS REPORTS SPECULATED GERMAN DISAPPOINTMENT OVER EC MEMBEP FAILURE TO SUPPORT FRG DEMANDS FOR TRIMMING EC BUDGET, PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WAS ONE REASON FOR SCHMIDT'S LETTER TO BRITAIN AND OTHER COMMUNITY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. BUT MOST IMPORTANT REASON, AT LEAST INsofar AS UK IS CONCERNED, IS SAID TO BE BRITISH INSISTENCE ON SEPARATE SEAT AT DECEMBER MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

3. MEDIA ALSO REPORTED THAT AT OCTOBER 14 DINNER FOR VENEZUELA FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM, FONSEC CALLAGHAN REITERATED UK'S DETERMINATION TO SEEK SEAT AT CONSUMER-PRODUCER DIALOGUE WHILE ADDING "BUT WHETHER BRITAIN WAS PRESENT OR NOT" IT WOULD STILL PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MAINTAINING DIALOGUE.

4. FINANCIAL TIMES EDITORIAL, COMMENTING ON LACK-LUSTRE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE ON BROADER EC ISSUES IN POST-REFERENDUM PERIOD, CRITICIZED FONSEC CALLAGHAN FOR RETURNING TO "HIS WORST RENEGOTIATION DAYS" IN INSISTING BEFORE EC COUNCIL ON BRITAIN'S OWN SEAT AT CONFERENCE. THE FINANCIAL TIMES NOTED THAT HE APPEARED TO GO BACK ON EARLIER STATEMENTS, DID NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A JOINT COMMUNITY POSITION OR EVEN SAY THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE. THE FINANCIAL TIMES CONCLUDED IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING

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THAT REACTION HAS BEEN ONE OF REGRET AND DISMAY THROUGHOUT EC.

RICHARDSON

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Disposition Remarks:
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